

MINNESOTA CORN & SOYBEAN PRODUCTION DOWN FROM LAST MONTH

CORN production is forecast at 989.1 million bushels, down 3% from the August 1 forecast and down 6% from the record high production in 2002, according to the Minnesota Agricultural Statistics Service. Based on September 1 conditions, the yield is forecast at 151.0 bushels per acre, down 5 bushels per acre from August 1 and down 6 bushels per acre from the record yield in 2002.

SOYBEAN production for Minnesota as of September 1 is forecast at 277.5 million bushels, down 14% from the August 1 forecast and down 10% from the record high production in 2002. Soybean yield is forecast at 37.0 bushels per acre, down 6 bushels per acre from August 1 and down 6.5 bushels per acre from the record yield in 2002.

The **SUGARBEET** crop is forecast at 9.7 million tons, down 30,000 tons from the August 1 forecast. Yield is forecast at 20.8 tons per acre, down 0.2 ton per acre from August 1, but up 2.2 tons per acre from last year.

U.S. HIGHLIGHTS

CORN production is forecast at 9.94 billion bushels, down 1% from last month but 10% above 2002. Based on conditions as of September 1, yields are expected to average 138.5 bushels per acre, down 1.4 bushels from August but up 8.5 bushels from last year. If realized, both production and yield would be the second largest on record. The record for both was set in 1994 when production was estimated at 10.1 billion bushels and yield was 138.6 bushels per acre. Yields are lower than last month across much of the Great Plains and northern Corn Belt as hot, dry conditions prevailed during most of August. However, yields are up in many Southeast and Atlantic Coastal States as adequate moisture was received and conditions were mostly favorable.

SOYBEAN production is forecast at 2.64 billion bushels, down 8% from the August forecast and 3% below 2002. Based on conditions as of September 1, yields are expected to average 36.4 bushels per acre, down 3.0 bushels from August. If realized, this would be the lowest production since 1996. High temperatures and moisture shortages stressed the soybean crop during the critical stages of development in the Great Plains and western Corn Belt during August. Forecast yields are down in the northern Great Plains and upper and middle Mississippi Valley due to extremely dry weather. However, yield prospects improved in the Ohio Valley, Delta States, Southeast, and Atlantic Coastal Plains due to mild temperatures and adequate moisture during August.

SUGARBEET production is forecast at 30.7 million tons, slightly above the August forecast and 11% above last year's production. Growers in the 12 sugarbeet-producing States expect to harvest 1.35 million acres. This is marginally higher than the August estimate but 1 percent below last year. The yield is forecast at 22.8 tons per acre, 0.1 ton above the August forecast and 2.4 tons above 2002.

MINNESOTA & U.S. HARVESTED ACRES, YIELD, AND PRODUCTION FORECAST

| COMMODITY | 2002 HARVESTED ACRES (000) | 2003 HARVESTED ACRES (000) | 2002 YIELD | 2003 YIELD | 2002 PRODUCTION (000) | 2003 PRODUCTION (000) |
|------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|---------------|---------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| MINNESOTA | | | | | | |
| CORN (Bu) | 6,700 | 6,550 | 157.0 | 151.0 | 1,051,900 | 989,050 |
| SOYBEANS (Bu) | 7,100 | 7,500 | 43.5 | 37.0 | 308,850 | 277,500 |
| SUGARBEETS (Ton) | 476 | 465 | 18.6 | 20.8 | 8,854 | 9,672 |
| UNITED STATES | | | | | | |
| CORN (Bu) | 69,313 | 71,815 | 130.0 | 138.5 | 9,007,659 | 9,944,418 |
| SOYBEANS (Bu) | 72,160 | 72,626 | 37.8 | 36.4 | 2,729,709 | 2,642,644 |
| SUGARBEETS (Ton) | 1,361.1 | 1,348.1 | 20.4 | 22.8 | 27,718 | 30,673 |